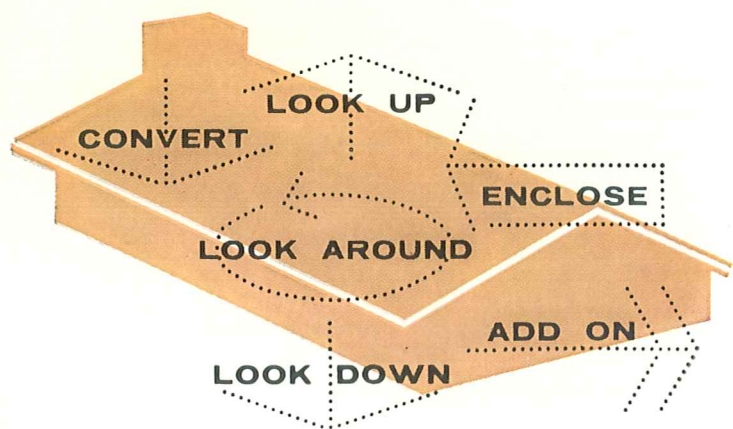


# extra living space

50 REMODELING AND  
DECORATING IDEAS  
TO DO YOURSELF



# How to get more living space and do it economically

*Extra bedrooms for the children . . .*

*More space for the family to relax, have fun . . .*

*A comfortable place for Mother to enjoy privacy . . .*

*More room for carefree entertaining*



There's hardly a family that hasn't been faced with the need for more living space at one time or another. So, if that's your problem, too, don't think it's anything unusual. Fact is, you can take encouragement from the way many other families have gained extra living space—right in and around the homes in which they were already living. Many of these ideas are contained in the pages of this book. It's filled with suggestions that you can put to use in your own home.

Whatever the reason may be for needing extra space in your home, there are plenty of ways to get it through remodeling. Perhaps you can make more efficient use of space you already have. Or you may be able to expand your living space into other areas, creating completely new rooms.

For any major construction, such as framing in a new roof area or an exterior wall, it will probably be wise to call in an experienced carpenter or builder. After he has done the heavy work, you can take over the less critical jobs yourself. This would be the work involved with the finishing of interior walls, ceilings, and floors. You'll not only save money with this plan of operation but also get a lot of satisfaction from doing the work yourself.

One of the best ways to save money in your remodeling is to select one of the Armstrong do-it-yourself floors and put it down yourself. These flooring materials are low in cost and are made especially for the home handyman to handle. These beautiful resilient tile floors are available in a variety of handsome stylings and lovely colors. Your flooring dealer will be glad to show you samples of the actual materials. He will also tell you how to go about putting down your floors and how to create interesting design effects.

As you go through this book, you will see Armstrong floors that can be used anywhere in your home, upstairs or in the basement, and that will do exactly the job you have in mind.

## Here's where to look for extra living space

### LOOK DOWN

A basement can be a gold mine of extra space. It can be converted into a bright, airy room simply by painting the walls and using cheerful colors in Armstrong do-it-yourself floors. Or it may be decorated as elaborately as you desire.

### LOOK UP

The attic offers a wonderful area for expansion—new bedrooms for the children, a room for family hobbies, an apartment for Mother. Whatever you do with your attic, you can keep costs low by putting down a smart Armstrong floor yourself.

### LOOK AROUND

Perhaps you have a dining room that sees service only one hour a day. By remodeling it, you can make this room serve as a family room, too—and it will work for you all day long. Busy multi-purpose rooms need the practicality of Armstrong floors.

### CONVERT

You can make an attached garage or enclosed porch part of your home's interior. Because these areas have subfloor, walls, and roof, remodeling needn't be costly. And many Armstrong do-it-yourself floors go right down over concrete slabs.

### ENCLOSE

Get extra space by enclosing a breezeway, patio, or open porch. Keep the new area from looking like a separate part of the house by blending its colors with the established color scheme. Choose harmonizing colors in Armstrong do-it-yourself floors.

### ADD ON

This is a more expensive way to gain extra space, but it gives you the most freedom. Whether you do the construction yourself, or have a builder do it, you can save with an Armstrong do-it-yourself floor.







## LOOK DOWN

# ... and discover space for a full-fledged recreation room

Having a basement room where the family can relax or entertain friends makes the entire house seem larger. It reduces wear and tear on the living room, too. Many successful recreation rooms have a special decorative theme—such as, “Western,” “Nautical,” or “Pennsylvania Dutch.” You don’t have to be an expert decorator to bring off a handsome decorative theme. Choose a design in Armstrong do-it-yourself floors (or create your own special design) that will serve as the foundation for your theme. You’ll find this will help you achieve just the effect you have in mind. Before you actually begin to remodel, you should also plan to build in a few features such as swinging café doors, portholes, or whatever you need to establish the theme. They’ll add an authentic touch to the decorative atmosphere of your room.

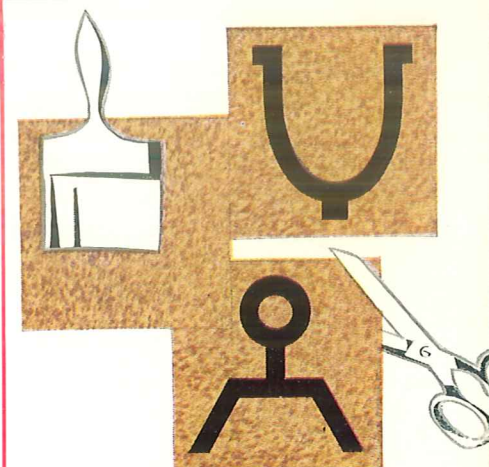
## IDEAS IN THIS “WESTERN BASEMENT”

**FLOOR**—Armstrong Excelon Tile in Corkstyle design No. 798 with cattle-brand insets helps establish “Western” theme. Spilled food, liquids, even grease splatters won’t harm this floor, are easily whisked away. • **WALLS**—Armstrong Temboard in a swirl pattern—surface painted white and rubbed with a gray glaze for rustic, weathered look. • **ACOUSTICAL CEILING**—Armstrong Full Random Cushiontone—a perforated ceiling tile soaks up party noises, easy to put up yourself. • **BAR**—simple, wood construction—covered with Armstrong Vinyl Plastic Surfacing, a flexible material that’s very easy to install. Resists stains, easy to clean. • **COPPER HOOD**—over the brazier, connected to main chimney. • **OLD PLAYER PIANO**—coat of paint helped blend it with room’s decorative scheme. • **HANGING GAS LAMPS**—add to authenticity of room’s “Western” atmosphere, electrified for better lighting.



### Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

To get the best appearance from your new floor, make sure concrete sub-floors are smooth. You can eliminate cracks and joint lines by applying Armstrong Crack Filler. It’s inexpensive and is sold by flooring stores.



You can install Armstrong Excelon Tile with only scissors and brush for tools. Your flooring dealer can get these smart cattle-brand insets for you—ready-made—from the factory.







## LOOK DOWN

# ... and find space for a big new bedroom

There's no rule that says basements can be made over only into recreation rooms. If you need an extra bedroom, turn your old bedroom over to the children and build yourself a big, luxurious new bedroom down in the basement. It's so easy to make a basement cheerful and livable. You can put down a colorful Armstrong do-it-yourself floor right over the concrete—and what a difference that will make! You can make the ceiling look beautiful, too, by putting up an Armstrong Cushiontone Ceiling yourself. And if you have supporting posts to contend with, you can camouflage them by building right around them. Don't be afraid to use your imagination because you can make your most fanciful ideas work with careful planning before you begin.

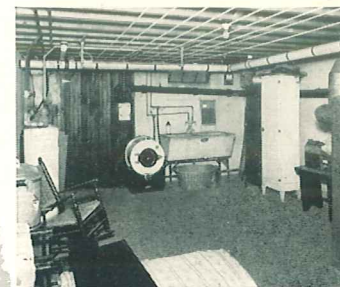
## IDEAS IN THIS MASTER BEDROOM

**FLOOR**—Armstrong Asphalt Tile, Style No. C-971, richly grained Woodtone styling. A simple kit containing the tools needed for installing Armstrong Asphalt Tile can be obtained from flooring dealers for about \$1.50. This is one of the lowest cost floors you can buy and is remarkably practical. • **PATIO**—a plus possibility when one basement wall is exposed or ground can be re-graded and drained—sliding glass doors provide airy, open look. • **HORIZONTAL WINDOWS**—run length of wall, an attractive basement feature that increases natural light in the room. • **CURTAINS**—hung ceiling to floor at patio end of room, add style, privacy, and make the ceiling seem higher. • **"INTER-COM" CONTROL PANEL**—solves problem of communication with other rooms in the house. • **COLOR SCHEME**—light colors in the walls and window draperies and sky-blue ceiling add to cheerful atmosphere.



### Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

To finish your basement walls, nail 1" x 2" furring strips to foundation walls and apply wall-finishing material. The air space created in this manner helps disperse moisture, but it is a good idea to paint the backs of finishing panels to prevent warping.



Space and opportunity are waiting in most old basements like this. You can have a useful and beautiful new room with imaginative decorating and a new floor of Armstrong Asphalt Tile.









## ... and have an efficiency apartment in the attic

In the past ten years, more and more growing families have been growing right into their attics. The attic has come into its own as a wonderfully versatile and very practical part of the house. If you have a good-sized attic, you can make it over into two bedrooms and a half-bath, into a large den-guest room, even into a family-activities area. Perhaps you bought your home with much of the attic already “roughed in” by the builder. In that case, all you have to do is put in utilities (or arrange to have an electrician and plumber install them), finish the walls and ceiling, and put down an Armstrong floor yourself. Any of the Armstrong do-it-yourself floors may be used in the attic. If you base the colors of walls, furnishings and accessories on the Armstrong floor you choose, your attic can be every bit as good looking as the downstairs rooms.

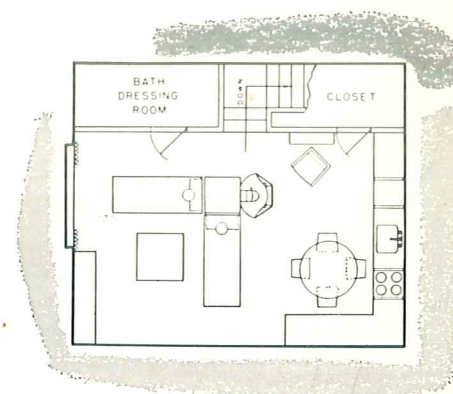
### IDEAS IN THIS ATTIC APARTMENT

**FLOOR**—Armstrong Cork Tile—very quiet and comfortable underfoot. The 3/32” gauge in Armstrong Cork Tile is easy to put down, its smooth surface requires very little care. • **WINDOW**—part of end wall was re-built to make the dramatic peaked window—keeps the whole apartment bright all day. • **FIREPLACE**—free-standing metal fireplace was attached to main chimney rising through attic. • **BEDS**—serve as sofas during the day, beds at night—placed against the chimney to eliminate need for additional headboards. • **BOOKCASES**—built floor to ceiling, add gracious livability to “complete apartment” effect. • **COUNTER**—built in with range and sink, see floor plan at right.



### Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

Adding a new fireplace in an attic room is easy. Choose one of the free-standing types and run the smoke-pipe to an existing chimney flue. Break into flue with a chisel or star drill, seal pipe with asbestos cement.



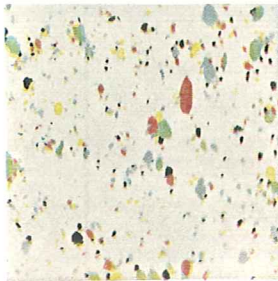
Floor plan shows how bath-dressing room and light cooking units can be worked into remodeled attic space along with general lounging and living area. This arrangement provides complete guest-apartment facilities.



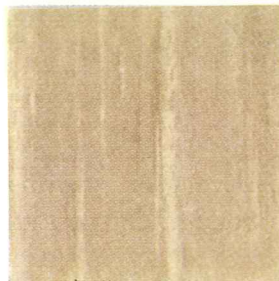
# LOW-COST, DO-IT-YOURSELF

## EXCELON VINYL-ASBESTOS TILE

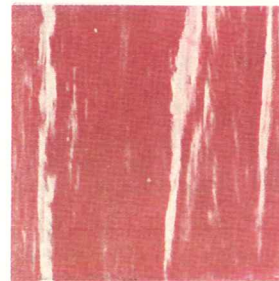
This is the easiest of all floors to install, even if you've never put down a floor before. All the tools you need are scissors to shape tiles for room edges and for custom designs, and a brush to apply adhesive. Excelon Tile can be used anywhere, even in the basement. It is durable, and so easy to clean.



Spatter 735



Designers Series 762



Straight Grain 777

## CORK

You will be pleasantly surprised at the new low cost of this floor. Armstrong Cork Tile in 3/32" and 1/8" gauges is for easy do-it-yourself installation, even on grade-level concrete slabs, if instructions are carefully followed. Custom Vinyl Cork Tile combines cork's beauty with vinyl's durability.



Mocha Tan 410, 1/8"\*

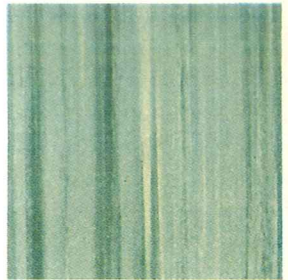
## THESE FLOORS ARE EASY TO PUT DOWN

You don't need to be an experienced craftsman to put down an Armstrong do-it-yourself floor. All of the floors shown here have been developed with the home handyman in mind. They're as easy to handle as a set of blocks. And that's just what they are—easy-to-handle blocks of floor tile that go into place alongside of each other—in any combination of colors or designs you prefer. All you do is square off your room with chalk lines, spread the recommended adhesive, and lay the tiles one by one. Your flooring dealer will be glad to supply you with simple step-by-step directions, cutting shears or knives and adhesive spreaders to help make the job easy.



## LINOLEUM

Armstrong Linoleum Tile is one of the lowest cost floors you can buy. It comes in many designs and colors. The "Parquet" design in the exclusive 6" x 12" size lets you create lots of new and different custom effects that you couldn't create with 9" x 9" tiles. Use Linoleum Tile above grade only.



Decoray 1806



# Armstrong FLOORS

Here are just a few of the many beautiful designs and colors available in Armstrong do-it-yourself floors. Your flooring dealer has many others.

## TILE



Coconut Brown 411, 1/8"



Custom Vinyl Cork Tile 1005, 1/8"

Armstrong Asphalt Tile has the good looks usually found only in higher priced floors, yet it's the lowest cost of all Armstrong floors. It can be used on any sub-floor, even in the basement. This floor comes in many lovely colorings, in a variety of smart designs. It is extremely rugged and offers easy-care advantages.

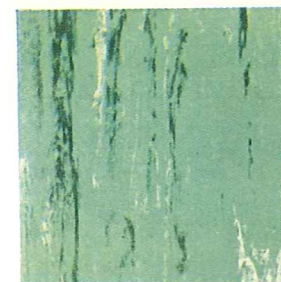
## ASPHALT TILE



Spatter B-994

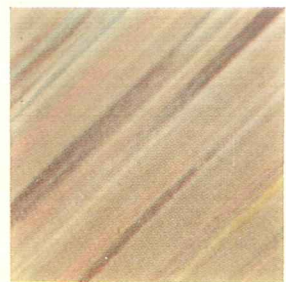


Corkstyle 974



Straight Grain C-902

## TILE



Parquet 9" x 9", 1870



Parquet 6" x 12", 1801

## LOW COST

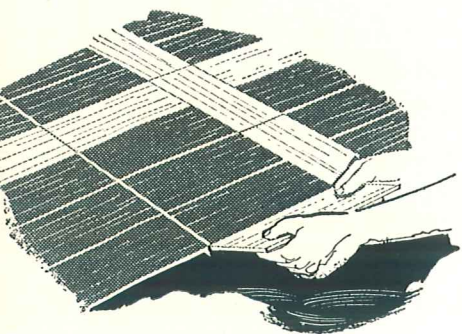
### HOW LARGE AN AREA ARE YOU CONSIDERING?

Here are approximate costs of Armstrong do-it-yourself floors in areas of various sizes\*

	EXCELON TILE (Service Gauge)	CORK TILE (3/32" Gauge)	ASPHALT TILE (1/8" Gauge)	LINOLEUM TILE (Service Gauge)
6' x 9' room	\$ 14.00	\$ 20.00	\$10.00	\$13.00
9' x 12' room	27.00	39.00	19.00	25.00
12' x 18' room	54.00	77.00	39.00	49.00
18' x 24' room	108.00	154.00	77.00	99.00

\* Prices of Armstrong do-it-yourself floors will vary slightly with different sections of the country. These are intended to give you a good idea of the comparative costs of floors. Do not install Linoleum Tile on basement floors or over grade-level concrete slabs in basementless houses.





### Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

Create a handsome parquet floor design with the 6" x 12" size in Armstrong Parquet Linoleum Tile. It's easy. Dark squares are four tiles deep, two tiles wide. Light colored stripes in the design are one tile wide.

LIKE MAGIC! After a busy day of family activities, this room converts in minutes to an elegant formal dining room. The floor of Armstrong Parquet Linoleum Tile is grease-proof. A damp mop removes spilled things without any effort. An ideal floor for a room where beauty and practicality must go hand in hand.



## LOOK AROUND

# ... for a double-purpose day-in day-out room

Are you getting the maximum use out of every room in your house? If you have a room that's in use only a fraction of the day, you have the makings of a good double-purpose room. One of the requirements of a room like this is that it can be changed from one use to another—quickly and easily. Special features built right into the walls, such as a cupboard, TV set, hi-fi set, and bookcases, will make it easy to change the room's purpose. You may have to make small structural changes to accommodate "built-ins" but you'll find they're well worth the cost. A room like this needs to be durably finished because it gets extra use. This applies to furnishings and is particularly true of the floor. All Armstrong do-it-yourself floors stand up under hard wear and, when it comes to cleaning, they're delightfully easy to care for.

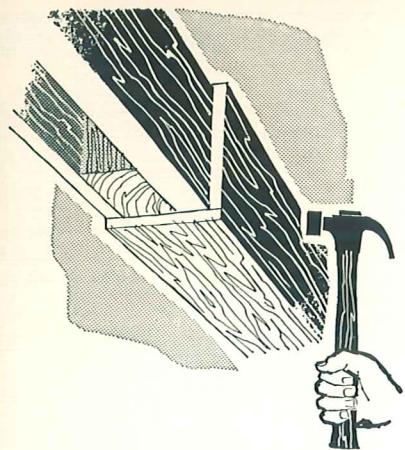
## IDEAS IN THIS FAMILY ROOM – DINING ROOM

**FLOOR**—6" x 12" Armstrong Parquet Linoleum Tiles, Styles 1841 and 1843, laid end-to-end, give room elegance for formal dining . . . have the durability needed for carefree family living. • **WALL CABINETS**—TV, radio-phonograph section can be easily closed off—double sliding doors reveal or conceal bookshelves and china cabinets, depending on use of room. • **CABINET DOORS**—covered with wallpaper panels give rich "carved" effect. • **SIDE TABLE**—folded up, it's only 9" deep—yet it pulls out to make a full-size dining room table that will seat eight at dinner with ease. • **LAMPS**—"Pogo stick" type, with tension springs at both ends—can be moved about and set anywhere in room to create appropriate lighting effects. • **CEILING**—Armstrong Full Random Cushiontone—keeps the room restfully quiet—decoratively painted without lessening acoustical qualities.





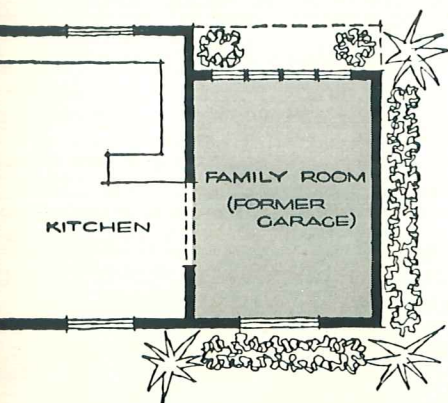




### Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

To create ceiling "beams," first, nail spacing blocks to one side of joist. Then, nail finishing board to other side of joist. Next, nail same-width finishing board to spacer. Face underside of joist with matching board. Stain or paint to suit room colors.

Sketch shows converted garage in relation to rest of house. Slab foundation of garage was lower than subfloor in kitchen. Step was solution and resulted in attractive "sunken room" effect. New landscaping around garage helped blend its exterior outline with rest of the house.



## CONVERT

# ... transform the garage into a handsome family room

An attached garage offers quite an economical way to remodel for more space because you have so much to begin with—a roof, walls, and subfloor. Once you break through the dividing wall, or have a builder do it for you, you're ready to start finishing the interior of your new room. How can you keep the new room from looking less like an afterthought and more like part of the original house? There should be some bridge of harmony between the new and the old, and one good way to unite both areas is through clever decorating. By putting down an Armstrong floor in a design and color that blends with the decorative scheme of the adjacent rooms, you lay the foundation for wonderful harmony throughout. In the many Armstrong do-it-yourself floors, you'll easily find just the right design and color to make your new room at home with the old.

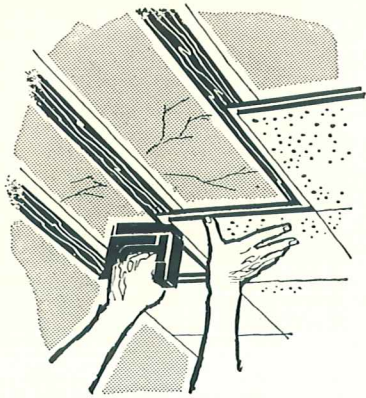
## IDEAS IN THIS FAMILY ROOM

**FLOOR**—Armstrong Excelon Tile, in the gay Spatter pattern (Style No. 737 in family room, No. 735 in kitchen)—used right over old concrete floor of garage and over old wood floor of kitchen—helps unite kitchen and family room in decorative harmony. • **WINDOW IN FAMILY ROOM**—insulated glass wall replaced original garage doors. • **BOOKCASE AND CABINETS**—extending length of room—built right onto garage wall—cabinets below hold TV set, toys, and games. • **DIVIDERS**—resemble playpen railings, they slide easily on Armstrong Furniture Rests—push back into slots in walls. • **FAMILY ROOM RUG**—is a woven Deltex Rug made by Armstrong. These smart rugs wear wonderfully, cost as little as \$20 for a 9' x 12'. • **BEAMS**—roof joists are "built up" by framing with boards stained to look like solid beams.





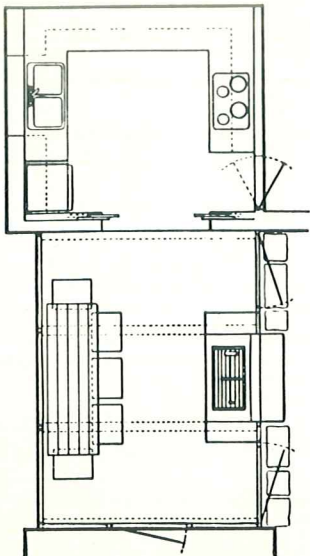




### Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

A ceiling material that looks handsome and also soaks up noise can be put up over furring strips with a stapling gun. It's Armstrong Cushion-tone in easy-to-handle 12" x 12" squares. Tongue-and-groove edges simplify the job of fitting the squares together. Hide cracks in old ceilings.

Sketch shows relation of breezeway to kitchen and garage areas. Glass walls were used to enclose breezeway without destroying the outdoor view.



## ENCLOSE

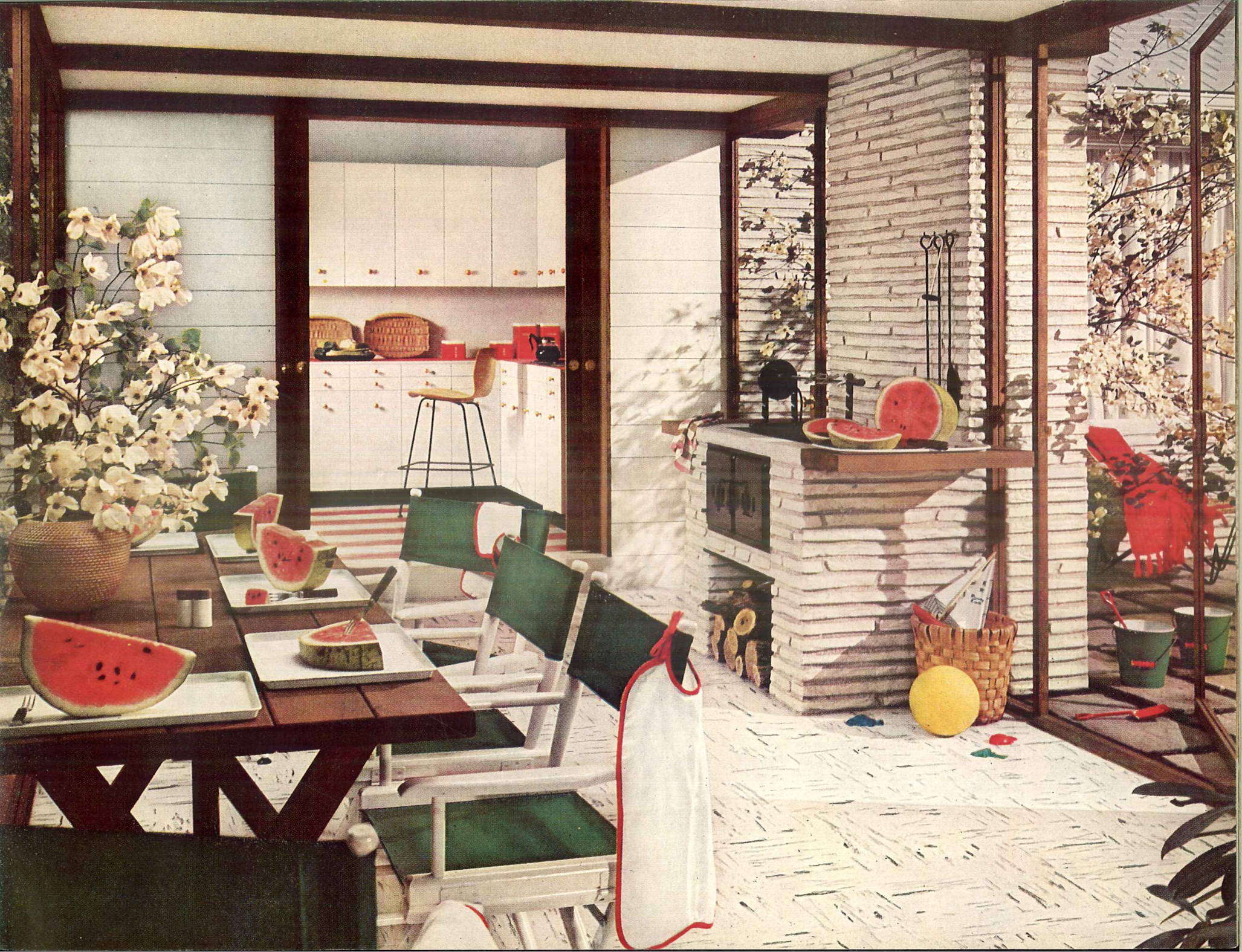
# ... make the breezeway into a picnic spot that's outdoors and indoors, too

Closing in a breezeway or a porch can give you an area for year-round indoor-outdoor fun. Most of the costly work—roof, supporting beams, and floor slab—has already been done. You can put up inexpensive walls to keep out bad weather. (Here, glass walls were installed to retain out-of-doors atmosphere.) Picnics can't be rained out when you have a spot like this, and the children have an ideal place to play during blustery winter days. Obviously, such a carefree haven calls for a carefree Armstrong floor. Armstrong Excelon Tile or Armstrong Asphalt Tile can be laid directly over the concrete slab and will stand up under the scuffing of active youngsters. Neither floor will be harmed by foods or liquids that are likely to be spilled. Once the walls go up and the floor goes down, the fun is ready to begin.

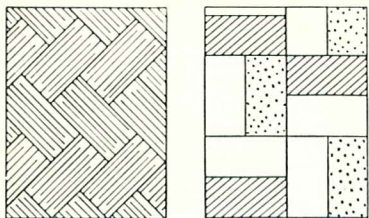
## IDEAS IN THIS ENCLOSED BREEZEWAY

**FLOOR**—Armstrong Excelon Tile, Style No. 770 (with stripes of No. 777 in the kitchen), laid on concrete floor of original breezeway. This floor is resistant to whatever might be spilled here. • **FIREPLACE**—same type of stone as exterior walls—has built-in wood storage and carving boards. • **WINDOW WALLS**—an effective way to close in a breezeway. • **CEDAR TABLE AND YACHTING CHAIRS**—maintain casual air, cost little. • **KITCHEN ENTRANCE**—enlarged to make serving easier—double sliding doors vanish into walls.



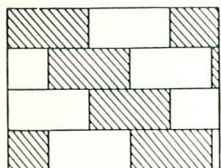






Basket-Weave Design

Ashlar Design



Interlock Design

## Handy Tip for do-it-yourselfers

Dozens of striking floor designs can be created with the 6" x 12" size of Armstrong Parquet Linoleum Tile. Three are shown above. They're easy to put down in any style you wish.

View looking into bathroom, with draperies and folding door opened. This lovely one-room apartment has every convenience. Kitchen is behind the bed, at the left of the bathroom.



ADD ON



# ... you can add any type of room to your house — even a complete, compact apartment

When you build a brand-new addition to a house, there's no limit to the type, size, and shape of the room or rooms you can add. How much you pay for an addition or for any remodeling project will depend on the nature and quality of the job. One thing you can be completely sure of is that in Armstrong do-it-yourself floors, you're getting the highest quality for the low price you pay. When building your addition, you may want to have a builder do the major construction and utility work for you. Then, you can finish the interior yourself. Just as Armstrong makes floors which are the easiest of all for do-it-yourselfers to put down, Armstrong also makes many kinds of building materials, including acoustical ceilings which you can put up quickly and easily yourself.

## IDEAS IN THIS ONE-ROOM APARTMENT

**FLOOR**—Armstrong Parquet Linoleum Tile in a smart "Chevron" design using 6" x 12" tiles, Style No. 1840. This exclusive tile shape permits many interesting designs. Stain-resistant, cleans easily. • **BUILT-INS**—desk, chest, and bookshelves make a space-saving unit. • **4-POSTER BED**—placed so that kitchen and bath are accessible from one side of bed and living room from the other. • **DRAPERIES**—hide the bed by day. • **KITCHEN AND BATH**—concealed by accordion-type doors—the "Parquet" floor runs through the entire apartment. One continuous floor surface makes for fast, easy cleaning. • **CEILING**—Armstrong Textured Cushiontone... keeps rooms restfully quiet, can be put up easily with nails or staples.







You greatly reduce the cost of any remodeling job when you do some of the work yourself. When you put down one of the Armstrong do-it-yourself floors, like the Armstrong Excelon Tile in this basement, you pay a very low price to begin with, and you save on installation costs. Even more important, you don't need to be an expert to get proud results.

Whether you do the remodeling work yourself, or have a builder help you, don't forget that banks are glad to help finance home improvement projects. You can go right ahead and remodel for the extra space you need and stretch out your payments over a long period of time.

You can see the many lovely designs and colors in Armstrong do-it-yourself floors in flooring stores, tile supermarkets, and at lumber dealers all over the country. They're listed in the Yellow Pages of your telephone directory.

If you wish more information about the floors and rooms in this book, or if you have any questions about what colors will go best with your new Armstrong floors, write to: Armstrong Cork Company, Department ELS, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Armstrong**  
CORK COMPANY

BUREAU OF INTERIOR DECORATION, LANCASTER, PA.

